

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 077677

O 201642Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3136

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21141

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, US, FR

SUBJECT: SISMIK SAILING INTO THE AEGEAN: KARAMANLIS  
VIEWS FROM ELYSEE

REF: (A) PARIS 20671 NOTAL (DTG 151638Z JUL),

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(B) ATHENS 7260 (DTG 191146Z JUL).

1. ELYSEE STAFFER TODAY READ EMBOFF EXCERPTS OF CABLE REPORTING DISCUSSION FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD HAD WITH KARAMANLIS DURING LAST DAY OR SO, BUT ASKED INFO, INCLUDING SOURCE, BE STRICTLY PROTECTED.

2. ACCORDING FRENCH CABLE KARAMANLIS SAID THAT IT IS NOT GREEKS WHO WANT TO CHANGE STATUS QUO IN AEGEAN OR RENEGOTIATE THE MONTREUX CONVENTION. NEVERTHELESS, GREEKS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUE. THEY WILL NOT, HOWEVER, DO SO UNDER PRESSURE. GREEKS RECOGNIZE TURKS HAVE INTERNAL PROBLEMS, BUT DO NOT AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESOLVED AT GREECE'S EXPENSE. GREECE IS AS IMPORTANT IN NATO AS TURKEY. MOREOVER, GREEK PEOPLE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND KARAMANLIS' COMPROMISE ON SISMIK ISSUE. KARAMANLIS IMPLIED THAT HE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD SISMIK PERHAPS WAS NOT VITAL IN AND OF ITSELF. HOWEVER, HE SAID WITH EMPHASIS, THAT IF HE COMPROMISED THIS FIRST POINT, ENTIRE SITUATION MIGHT BECOME UNSTUCK BOTH WITH TURKS, WHO WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE, AND DOMESTICALLY. IN REMAINING FIRM KARAMANLIS HAD GREEK PEOPLE SOLIDLY BEHIND HIM. INTERESTINGLY, KARAMANLIS PLACED LESS ONUS FOR PRESENT CRISIS ON DEMIREL, WHO MAY HAVE COUNSELED PRUDENCE IN LAST MONTH, THAN ON TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH HAD NOW PUSHED ISSUE ALMOST TO POINT OF CONFRONTATION. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED IN HIS COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT KARAMANLIS FELT "MORALLY AND POLITICALLY OBLIGED TO REACT" IF THE SISMIK CHALLENGED GREEK POSITIONS.

3. ELYSEE SOURCE ADDED THAT KARAMANLIS HAD ALSO REFERRED TO A RECENT U.S. DEMARCHE IN ANKARA TO COUNSEL MODERATION ON TURKS, BUT HAD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW "HOW VIGOROUS THIS HAD BEEN." ELYSEE SOURCE COMMENTED THAT FRENCH COULD WELL UNDERSTAND ANY

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3137

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EXDIS

U.S. DIFFICULTIES IN PRESSING TURKS HARD, GIVEN THE CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. WHAT CONCERNED ELYSEE MORE, SOURCE SAID, EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING OFF-THE-RECORD, WAS THE FRG'S APPARENT LACK OF VIGOR IN PRESSING ANKARA. SOURCE THEN SUGGESTED GOF HAD BEEN QUIETLY TRYING TO CONVINCE FRG TO BE LESS RETICENT AND TO PRESS TURKS HARDER.

4. FINALLY, FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S CABLE ALSO CONTAINED  
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PORTION ABOUT CYPRUS. GIST WAS THAT KARAMANLIS WOULD "APPLAUD" WALDHEIM DETERMINATION THAT CONDITIONS EXISTED FOR RECONVENING THE VIENNA TALKS. KARAMANLIS ALSO THOUGHT HE COULD DELIVER MAKARIOS. IN ANY CASE, KARAMANLIS WAS TRYING TO MAKE MAKARIOS UNDERSTAND THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

5. SOURCE CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT GREEK-TURKISH SITUATION OVER SISMIK WAS CLEARLY REACHING CRITICAL STAGE; THAT FRENCH REMAINED CONVINCED SERIOUS RISK OF CONFLICT EXISTED; BUT STILL HOPED THAT MODERATION

WOULD IN THE END PREVAIL AND CONFLICT BE AVOIDED.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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